

The Presbyterian Church in the United States
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James E. Andrews, Stated Clerk

July 12, 1976

The Honorable George Bush
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
McLean, Virginia

Dear Mr. Bush:

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States approved the following statement at its June 11-19 meeting in Tuscaloosa, Alabama:

PUBLIC POLICY STATEMENT ON
GOVERNMENT INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES AND
AMERICAN MISSIONARIES

That the General Assembly adopt the following Public Policy Statement on Government Intelligence Agencies and American Missionaries:

The 116th General Assembly notes with deep concern that the United States Government has recently confirmed and defended contacts between the Central Intelligence Agency (C.I.A.) and American missionaries and foreign clergy abroad.

We believe such C.I.A. and other U.S. government agency intelligence gathering from American missionaries and foreign clergy should stop immediately because, among other reasons:

1. U.S. government intelligence gathering is carried out in support of U.S. foreign policy objectives whereas American missionaries and foreign clergy should not be used for U.S. foreign policy objectives.
2. Recent public revelations about covert and illegal activities of the C.I.A., which have been widely reported and criticized around the world, render any contacts between the C.I.A. and missionaries and foreign clergy suspect and tend to taint the activities of the missionaries and clergy, and jeopardize their work carried out in the name of Jesus Christ.
3. Trust and confidence are central to any mission relationship. Church bodies overseas have the right to expect the relationships of U.S. religious personnel to those Churches will be solely at the service of a common Christian mission and will not be used in any way for intelligence gathering purposes of any

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government. Though we are not aware of many instances in which American missionaries have provided intelligence information to U.S. government agencies, we believe that any such instances undermine the trust and confidence that should be maintained with church bodies overseas.

We note with gratitude that there is no evidence that missionaries of the Presbyterian Church, U.S. have been involved in government intelligence gathering activities and that the General Executive Board has directed overseas missionary personnel not to participate in such activities.

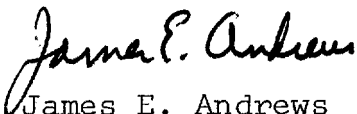
Therefore the General Assembly:

1. Protests all C.I.A. and other U.S. Government intelligence agencies' use of American missionaries and foreign clergy for intelligence gathering purposes.
2. Supports efforts to enact legislation which will prohibit the C.I.A. and other U.S. government intelligence agencies from seeking intelligence information from American missionaries and other clergy and from appropriation of funds for such purposes.
3. Urges the President of the United States to direct all U.S. intelligence gathering agencies to cease immediately from using American missionaries and foreign clergy as intelligence information sources.
4. Directs that this statement be communicated to the President of the United States, the Director of the C.I.A. and the Congress.

We invite your attention to these views, expressed by the highest deliberative body of our Church, a denomination of approximately 1,000,000 members living in the Southeastern quarter of our nation.

May you find these views helpful in your heavy responsibilities, and may you be continually guided by the presence of the God who loves and cares for all the world's peoples.

Sincerely,



James E. Andrews
Stated Clerk of the General Assembly

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